INTRODUCTION
In recent years the number of persons forced into displacement as a result of wars and political instability has reached the highest levels in history. In 2015, there were 63.91 million people affected (UNHCR), half of whom came from ten countries: Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Central African Republic, Iraq and Eritrea. The Middle East and The Horn of Africa generate most of the dislocations due to the persistence of the Palestinian conflict, the instability in Libya, Iraq and Afghanistan, and the terrible civil war in Syria, which has shed so much blood since 2011. In the last ten years, Syria has created the largest exodus of refugees in the world since World War Two. An 86% of the refugees received asylum in non-European Union countries (mainly in Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon, Jordan and other Sub-Saharan African countries). The European Union countries accepted a total of 1,312,160 asylum seekers in 2015 and around 1.3 million in 2016 (EUROSTAT). Spain was one of the least welcoming nations despite its geographical location in the Southern border of the EU. In 2016, it received 886 refugees, mainly from Greece and Italy (59%) and from Lebanon and Turkey (28%). Overall, from the minimum EU European Commission signed the redistribution plan in September of 2015, to the end of 2016, Spain received 896 refugees, i.e. 5% of the 17,357 that the Government had committed to through such agreement.

OBJECTIVES

- Characterize the evolution of the number of displaced people, refugees, asylum seekers and UNHCR-assisted people since 2008 (Dublin statistics)
- Mapping the routes of forced migrations in Europe and the consolidation of the European fortress
- Integrate the political Spanish role in the context of European Union on the named "refugees' crisis"
- Compare the lack of action from the Spanish central government on asylum seekers with the initiatives taken by civil society, NGOs and regional governments to facilitate their arrival and settlement

SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

- Quantitative and qualitative analysis of the information (data and reports) provided by the UNHCR (http://www.unhcr.org)
- Qualitative analysis of the information provided by mass media and NGO's reports
- Processing of cartography using ArcGIS

CONCLUSIONS

Asylum claims in Europe reached record levels in 2016, despite the slowdown in the arrival of foreigners. A total of 1.2 million people applied for international protection this past year in the EU, a level almost identical to that of 2015. This shows that asylum and migration must be incorporated as central elements of European foreign policy, not only in their relations with countries of origin and transit but also with respect to other geographical areas. The EU must press for a more equitable distribution of refugees among developed countries and in a clear, transparent manner. Despite its population weight in the whole of Europe, Spain receives very few applications (1.3% of them from the European Union 2008-2016). The refugee crisis is a unique opportunity for Spain to take a radical turn in its immigration policy, incorporate the refugee question into its priorities in the national and international agenda, promote the safe and legal transit of migrants and increase the European Union but asking for a repeal of the Schengen area but no European Union

According to the CEAR (Spanish Commission for Refugees) Executive Summary 2016 Report (p. 5), Spain attended nearly 15,000 asylum seekers in 2015, the highest number ever registered. However, this number continued to account for just 1% of those who were attended by the 28 countries of the European Union as a whole. Furthermore, the Government only granted the status of refugee to 218 people, and subsidiary protection to 802, while denying any kind of protection to 68.5% of the people that applied. The "push-back" practice in Ceuta and Melilla continued, even if recently denounced by the United Nations, and did the difficulties for applicants and stowaway immigrants to liaise with the procedures at immigration detention centers. According to the information provided by the Spanish Home Office Ministry, all correspondence addressed to Syrian and Ukrainian citizens, and 5,176 of the requests were done at the Moroccan border in Ben-Enzar (Mellia). Additionally, 5,270 applications were received from other European Union countries (Germany, France, Belgium, Switzerland and Sweden). The European Commission complained to the National Government and to the EU about the delays and the bureaucratic hurdle to receive the 9.1 quota (9,023) of asylum seekers advised by the European Council Directive of 23 April 2015.

The reasons for the no implementation of the European Directive and for the lack of action by the authorities differ from the initiatives taken by the civil society, certain NGOs and local communities to facilitate their arrival and settlement.